

of two years on condition that the defendant take treatment for addiction.

Investigation re Luella Phinney (Mrs. E. L. Phinney) deceased, whose body was found on April 6, 1926, under her bed at 888 East Fifty-first Street, Los Angeles, discloses that she was formerly Ellen Luella Coon, under which name she was licensed to practice medicine in this state.

According to Associated Press dispatch dated Washington, D. C., July 14, 1926, many of the compounds advertised as containing radium have been found by the Agricultural Department to have little or no value because of the radium content, and a general warning was issued. "Less than 5 per cent of so-called radium hair tonics, bath compounds, tissue creams, tonic tablets, face powders, ointments, suppositories, mouth washes, demulcents, opiates, healing pads, and other preparations were found by the department to be radioactive, and these to very limited extents."

The activities of Paul Shirley, 331 Fresno Avenue, now in jail in lieu of \$2000 bail following his arrest last night on a statutory charge made by a woman patient at his clinic, will be investigated by the State Medical Board, it was learned today. Shirley told officers today that he is not a physician, but acts as an assistant to Dr. Alice Fuller, although the clinic is known as the Shirley Institute (San Francisco Examiner, July 29, 1926). It is related that Shirley formerly conducted the Shirley Cancer Institute on Twelfth Street, Oakland, California.

Press dispatches relate that Duncan E. Stewart, M. D., Huntington Park physician, was recently found guilty on a charge of selling narcotics, it being alleged that on June 30 Doctor Stewart sold forty-eight grains of morphine and cocaine to Madge Surber, and is alleged to have accepted \$8 from the woman for the prescription for narcotics.

L. P. Strayhorn, Texas physician, now residing at Montebello, escaped removal to Texas on a federal charge when Judge McCormick upheld a ruling made several months ago. Strayhorn is accused of violating the Federal Farm Bureau Act in connection with alleged falsifying as to the value of property in applying for a loan of \$6000. Several months ago United States Commissioner Head ruled that the matter should be handled here.—Los Angeles Record, August 11, 1926. See "News Items," May, 1926.

Nasaaki Tanimoto, mentioned in "News Items" of June, 1926, as having been convicted of violating the Medical Practice Act, was recently held to answer in Los Angeles on a charge of perjury in connection with his testimony.

Report having been made that Karl J. Weberg, licensed chiropractor and president of the Pasadena College of Chiropractic, had attended as a physician at the birth of some ten children, and information having been obtained from James Compton, D. C., secretary of the Chiropractic Board, that a licensed chiropractor was not permitted to do obstetrical work under his license, the matter was submitted to Chief Counsel Bianchi for an opinion, who, under date of July 7, 1926, opined in part as follows: "The practice of obstetrics is the practice of medicine and surgery, and I know of no provision in the chiropractic initiative which allows the holder of a chiropractic license to practice obstetrics, and such practice by one not so authorized by the Board of Medical Examiners is subject to the penalties prescribed by the act last named. See "News Items," July and August, 1926.

Until the general attitude of the American people toward public officials undergoes a radical change, the health officer must labor under the disadvantage of being regarded as just one of the army of office holders whose motives are frequently open to suspicion.—Matthias Nicoll, Jr., J. A. M. A.

Complacency is the death of people. It is the one distemper from which a nation cannot recover, once it has secured a grip upon the faculties of that nation.—Hon. Thomas J. Lennon, Justice Supreme Court of California.

READERS' FORUM

Stanford University, California,
July 27, 1926.

Dear Editor—I must compliment you upon your very excellent suggestion printed in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE in July concerning The Health Dossier.

It seems to me that this is a real public health procedure. I have visions of the time coming when intelligent mothers will be interested enough in their children to see that such a dossier is started at birth and kept up to date, as you suggest.

Let me again thank you for your suggestion which, if carried out, would be most effective in the practice of both personal and public health.

C. O. SAPPINGTON,
Acting Medical Adviser.

Santa Barbara, California,
July 18, 1926.

To the Editor—I want to object to your "obsolete" clipping from "Medical Review of Reviews" which appeared in your last number, beginning "Indiscriminate and reckless removal of any and all tonsils has brought reproach to the medical profession." If this is true it is, I believe, a matter of ignorance fostered by the approval of those who should and could know better. Rather the reproach should be on those who are allowing their patients to stagger along under the burden of an infection and toxemia nearly overwhelming and failing to get relief in their secondary disease.

I want to repeat what I have said before, that the individual who has had his tonsils removed, even seemingly needlessly, is to be congratulated. Whether it can or cannot be demonstrated—and it usually can be—that there is chronic infection, he has lost a potential source of danger at slight risk for which he should be thankful.

The ultraconservative has been trying for years to prove benefits derived from retaining the tonsils. Only theories have resulted. He has tried the same line with the appendix, though with a less respectful hearing. Of course, there have been tonsils removed that the hosts could have lived with to a green old age. But the progressive, competent, and successful clinician is finding that he must remove all, even suspected focal infection in teeth, tonsils, and sinuses if he is to adequately treat his cases of cardiovascular, renal, gastric, pulmonary, orthopedic, and metabolic disease.

When we will see the results plain to the fairminded, look with suspicion at tonsils and urge patients to get rid of the dirty things whenever possible, we will have more grateful patients and results to brag of. For one needlessly removed hundreds are left, in adults, that, if not a present cause of ill health, are more than likely to cause invalidism and shortened life.

PHILIP C. MEANS.

P. S.—But I like our journal just the same! It's good.

San Leandro, California,
July 20, 1926.

To the Editor—In your issue of July, page 86, appears a news item of the appointment of Dr. G. L. McLellan as health officer of the city of San Leandro.

Please be advised that Dr. Luther Michaels has been appointed health officer for said city.

E. F. HUTCHINGS.

Pseudo-Hypertrophic Muscular Paralysis—Philip Lewin, Chicago (Jour. A. M. A.), makes a preliminary report of a clinical study of thirty-nine cases of pseudo-hypertrophic muscular paralysis. It is his belief that the greatest progress in the understanding and treatment of this disease will come from careful studies along two lines, viz., carbohydrate-muscle metabolism and endocrinology. The recommendations for treatment are: a diet rich in all vitamins, large doses of calcium lactate in milk, epinephrine hypodermically or hypodermic tablets dissolved under the tongue, physiotherapy, and muscle re-education.